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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent application of : Attorney Docket No.:
Doug Ulbrich *et al.* : 9325-3CT1 (156244)
Serial No.: 10/075,547 : Group Art Unit:
Filed: February 14, 2002 : 1772
For: Splice for a Heat Shrinkable Label : Examiner:
Patterson, Marc

PATENT RECEIVED
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is in response to the office action (restriction requirement) for the above-identified application mailed from the U.S. Patent Office on June 16, 2003. This response is being filed within the one-month time period set by the office action for response. Therefore, no certification, petition or fee is required.

If any fee is deemed to be due for this response, or any overpayment is made, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p>BY: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>DATE: <u>July 14, 2003</u></p>

ELECTION

The Examiner has required restriction of the above-identified application to one of three groups of claims identified by the Examiner as follows:

- I: Claims 1-4, 12-17 and 21 (structure for joining ends of label webs)
- II: Claims 5-11, 22-23 (structure for supplying heat shrinkable labels)
- III: Claims 18-20 (container having sidewalls)

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I. However, each of claims 1-23, as amended herein, is now directed to a label. It is respectfully submitted that a continued requirement for restriction would be improper and that each of claims 1-23 should be examined in the present application.

AMENDMENT

Amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A label for product containers comprising:
first and second elongated webs of heat shrinkable material;
a splice member adapted to overlap a terminal end portion of each of the webs with the webs arranged in an abutting relationship, the splice member comprised substantially of heat shrinkable material; and
an adhesive coating on a surface of the splice member for securing the splice member to each of the first and second webs.
2. (Amended) The label according to claim 1, wherein the splice member is transparent.
3. (Amended) The label according to claim 1, wherein the splice member comprises a polyethylene film.
4. (Amended) The label according to claim 1, wherein the label webs are from two separate label rolls.